

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Pamela Mills

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Lee Withers

TOWN COUNCIL
Arthur Heggins
Brandon Linn
Rodney Phillips
Charles Seaford
Steve Stroud

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, February 05, 2019
7:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Withers called the regular meeting of February 5th, 2019 to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Withers called roll. All council members were present. There was a quorum.

The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor Withers amended the agenda with these changes:

Mayor Updates: add Item III) Mayors Youth Council

Other Business: add Item I) Ten Minute Walk to a Park Campaign

Mr. Linn made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

- a) Approve Minutes from January 8th, 2019 regular meeting
- b) Approve Minutes from January 8th, 2019 closed session
- c) Approve Minutes from January 22nd, 2019 special meeting
- d) Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment to increase deposit and rental rate
- e) Approve Community Memorial Building Rental Contract
- f) Adopt Resolution Endorsing New Projects

Mr. Linn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Heggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Bishop Jordan – 134 Lane Street SW, Concord, NC 28025

Mr. Jordan thanked the Board for the Resolution recognizing February as Black History Month. He stated it is great to honor this month and be in unity as God wants us to be.

NEW BUSINESS

- I) Adopt Resolution Recognizing CGMS Students of Bus 215

Chief Zimmerman recognized the students from Bus 215 for their courage and leadership during an emergency situation. He stated witnesses told fire personnel that all students exited the emergency exit and stood in an

orderly manner while Police and Fire officials assisted the Bus driver. He thanked them for being understanding and behaving the way that they did during the emergency. Mayor Withers read the Resolution aloud.

Mr. Linn made a motion to Adopt the Resolution Recognizing CGMS Students of Bus 215. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Adopt Resolution recognizing February as Black History Month

Mr. Heggins stated He would like to commend the Council for considering this Resolution. He stated the Westside Community as well as other individuals that are black in the community have been a part of China Grove for years. He stated he has found this area open and welcome to the black race and has offered us to be a part of the community. He stated he invited residents of the black community to the meeting and recognized Vanessa Heggins, Emma Hamilton, Johnny White, Ann Jordan, and Tasha Jordan. Mayor Withers stated Mr. Heggins is a great addition to the Board and He read the Resolution aloud.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to Adopt the Resolution Recognizing February as Black History Month. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III) Set dates for Budget Meeting and Planning Session

Mayor Withers stated he would like the Board to hold a Planning Session this year to discuss the upcoming 19-20 budget. He stated we do not have to set a date tonight but asked the Board to look at their calendars and think about when everyone is available. Mr. Heggins stated it would be great for him to learn more about the process. The Council discussed dates and times to hold a session.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to hold a Budget Session on March 12th at 4:00 pm. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MAYOR UPDATES

I) Update on meeting with Rowan Salisbury School Board

Mayor Withers stated Mr. Phillips, Mr. Deal and himself attended the meeting at South Rowan with Rowan Salisbury School Board. He stated they discussed growth in the southern rowan area and the property the School Board owns on the corner of Bostian Road and Hwy 29 South. He stated they also discussed the Middle School property and how large that parcel is. He stated he informed the School Board that the Council is in favor of the changes. Mr. Phillips stated China Grove is one of the few Towns in Rowan County that are in support of the changes.

II) Update on meetings with Commissioners and Local Officials

Mayor Withers stated Mr. Phillips, Mr. Deal and himself had a meeting with Mr. Edds and Mr. Greene and discussed the Towns needs that the County could help support. He stated they discussed the I-85 interchange, and the entry way into town at Bostian Road and Hwy 29. Mr. Phillips stated they discussed parks and the Parks and Recreation Department. He stated there were a lot of positive comments from the Commissioners.

III) Mayors Youth Council

Mayor Withers stated he would take volunteers if any Board or Staff member would like to help with the Youth Council. He stated he opened it up to Carson High School, China Grove Middle, China Grove Elementary, Bostian Elementary, and South Rowan High School. He stated the mission is to introduce young adults and future leaders to local government and civic duties.

IV) State and Town Dinner

Mr. Linn encourage the Council members to attend the State and Town Dinner on February 20th.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

I) Police Department

Chief Deal stated there was a shooting on Sunday off of Harry Street. He stated the individuals were from out of town and knew each other. He stated there is a suspect and warrants are out on the suspect. He stated speeding on Shue Road, Power Street and in the neighborhoods is still an issue. He stated the department is monitoring the issue and issuing citation.

II) Public Works

Mr. Ketner stated leave season is coming to a close. He stated the department will run one more week and then the trucks will be put up for the season. He stated the grass seed is going down at the Community Building and the building and block is looking great.

III) Administration

Mayor Withers asked Mr. Deal to extend an offer to the neighboring town to help in anyway. He stated he wants Landis to know we support them and will be here with anything that we can help with.

a) Finance

Mayor Withers asked Mrs. Bopp to look into trends and growth over the last few years. He stated Rowan Counties tax revaluation was January 1, 2019 and we need to see what that revaluation does to our projected income. Mrs. Bopp stated the new software allows check stubs to be emailed.

b) Event Coordinator

Ms. Price stated she is working on the 2019 events. She stated there are 2 new additions this year, the Veteran Memorial and National Night Out.

IV) Fire Department

Chief Zimmerman stated there was a structure fire on Salisbury Street this weekend. He stated wreck calls on I-85 have decrease. He stated there will be lane change closures on I-85 coming up in the next couple of weeks and they are anticipating an increase in calls.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) 10 Minute Walk to a Park Campaign

Mayor Withers stated this is a pledge that states the town has a park within a 10-minute walk of all residents. He stated Ms. Price and Mr. Gover checked today and found this to be true. He stated he would like the Board to support in signing the Pledge. He stated there are some resources that are available when the town becomes a part of this campaign.

Mr. Linn made a motion to sign the pledge in support of the 10-Minute Walk to a Park campaign. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

I) Discussion on property located at 911 South Main Street

Mr. Deal stated we have received three bids on demolishing the front of the building. He stated Mr. Gover and himself are meeting with staff from the Railroad to discuss what can and cannot be done on the property. Mayor Withers stated investing in this property is a great way to invest in the Southend District. He stated around 40% of the building is still in good shape and the building needs to be secured. Mr. Stroud asked is funding available without going into reserves. Mr. Deal stated he will sit down with Mrs. Bopp to see if funding is available.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to secure the building by accepting the low bid for demolishing the front and not to exceed \$9,500.00 if the funding is available. Mr. Heggins seconded the motion carried with a vote of 4-1, Mr. Stroud being the opposing vote.

II) Update on Community Building Renovations

Mr. Deal stated the gutters are being installed this week. He stated the granite for the kitchen cabinets will be installed on Friday along with the sink. He stated there is a lot of interest in renting the building. Mayor Withers stated he noticed there are a lot of Rowan County contractors on the list that Mrs. Bopp has provided the Board. He stated he is proud to see the Town hiring local businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Mills, CMC
Town Clerk

Lee Withers
Mayor